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MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Adjusted Data

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 4.6 percent in March, the lowest March rate since 2001. The February seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated to be 4.9 percent, while March of 2004 was estimated to have been 5.3 percent. The State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has not been below 4.6 percent since October of 2001. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.2 percent, while the U.S. rate for February was 5.4 percent. The March 2004 national rate was estimated at 5.7 percent.

March employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available April 20, 2005. This release also is available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/>.

Unadjusted Data

The state's non-adjusted preliminary March 2005 rate showed improvement over the prior month and over one year ago. The March 2005 was estimated at 5.5 percent compared to 5.8 percent in February and 6.2 percent in March of 2004. The national non-adjusted rate was reported at 5.4 percent in March of 2005, 5.8 percent in February of 2005, and 6.0 percent in March of 2004. Wisconsin's non-adjusted unemployment rate is normally lower than the U.S. rate, except in the winter months, particularly February and March.

"Total jobs for last month were the highest they have been in the month of March in four years," Secretary Gassman said. "The continued positive labor market information is a good sign, but there are still several parts of the state experiencing hardships with regard to the job market."

Wisconsin's nonfarm wage and salary jobs were estimated to be 2,776,100 in March, up 31,800 from March 2004. That is the highest March job total since March 2001. March also marks the fifteenth month in a row with over-the-year increases.

Most major industries showed increases over March 2004, including construction, manufacturing, trade, transportation, information, financial activities, education and health care services, leisure and hospitality, and government. There were slight decreases in "professional and business services" and the "other services" sectors. There were 2,760,300 Wisconsin nonfarm wage and salary jobs in February.

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

In Thousands

| ITEM | NET CHANGE FROM | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | PRELIM. MAR 05 | FINAL FEB 05 | YEAR AGO MAR 04 | MONTH AGO | YEAR AGO |
| PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA | | | | | |
| NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES | | | | | |
| CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE | 3027.6 | 3046.1 | 3060.2 | -18.5 | -32.6 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT | 165.3 | 176.6 | 190.7 | -11.3 | -25.4 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT RATE | 5.5 | 5.8 | 6.2 | -0.3 | -0.7 |
| EMPLOYMENT (1) | 2862.3 | 2869.5 | 2869.5 | -7.2 | -7.2 |
| PLACE OF WORK DATA | | | | | |
| NONFARM WAGE & SALARY | | | | | |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 2776.1 | 2760.3 | 2744.3 | 15.8 | 31.8 |
| GOODS PRODUCING | 2352.9 | 2338.5 | 2322.3 | 14.4 | 30.6 |
| NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING | 619.3 | 614.8 | 608.7 | 4.5 | 10.6 |
| CONSTRUCTION | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 0.2 | -0.2 |
| MANUFACTURING | 115.3 | 113.5 | 110.9 | 1.8 | 4.4 |
| Durable Goods | 500.9 | 498.4 | 494.5 | 2.5 | 6.4 |
| Nondurable Goods | 312.4 | 311.4 | 306.6 | 1.0 | 5.8 |
| SERVICE PRODUCING | 188.5 | 187 | 187.9 | 1.5 | 0.6 |
| TRADE | 2156.8 | 2145.5 | 2135.6 | 11.3 | 21.2 |
| Wholesale Trade | 422.6 | 422.1 | 420.5 | 0.5 | 2.1 |
| Retail Trade | 114.3 | 113.8 | 112.4 | 0.5 | 1.9 |
| TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES | 308.3 | 308.3 | 308.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Utilities | 106 | 105.5 | 104.2 | 0.5 | 1.8 |
| Information | 11.4 | 11.4 | 11.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | 51 | 50.3 | 49.9 | 0.7 | 1.1 |
| Finance and Insurance | 157.3 | 156.9 | 156.7 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Lease | 130.2 | 129.5 | 130.2 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES | 27.1 | 27.4 | 26.5 | -0.3 | 0.6 |
| Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services | 243.2 | 239.9 | 243.3 | 3.3 | -0.1 |
| Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises | 87.4 | 86.4 | 89.5 | 1.0 | -2.1 |
| Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services | 38.4 | 38.3 | 39.9 | 0.1 | -1.5 |
| EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES | 117.4 | 115.2 | 113.9 | 2.2 | 3.5 |
| Educational Services | 383.9 | 383.3 | 372 | 0.6 | 11.9 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 53.9 | 53.8 | 47.1 | 0.1 | 6.8 |
| LEISURE & HOSPITALITY | 330 | 329.5 | 324.9 | 0.5 | 5.1 |
| Arts, Entertain., & Recreation | 235.9 | 232.7 | 232.6 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 28.3 | 27.6 | 28.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin | 207.6 | 205.1 | 204.3 | 2.5 | 3.3 |
| GOVERNMENT | 133.7 | 133 | 134.4 | 0.7 | -0.7 |
| Federal Government | 423.2 | 421.8 | 422 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| State Government | 29.2 | 29.1 | 29.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Local Government | 104.5 | 103.9 | 102.4 | 0.6 | 2.1 |
| PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES | 289.5 | 288.8 | 290.4 | 0.7 | -0.9 |
| (1) Includes L-M Disputes | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES | | | | | |
| CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE | 3051.8 | 3071.1 | 3075.8 | -19.3 | -24.0 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT | 140.6 | 150.1 | 162.3 | -9.5 | -21.7 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT RATE | 4.6 | 4.9 | 5.3 | -0.3 | -0.7 |
| EMPLOYMENT | 2911.2 | 2921.0 | 2913.5 | -9.8 | -2.3 |

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information